

NEWS

November 2011

Master Class Manchester 2011

Deborah Hirshman September 2011

On 13th September we held our first Master Class to “Share Best Practice in Prone Positioning” in Manchester and I’m delighted to say that the feedback from the delegates was extremely positive.

The day started with presentations from Dr Glyn Smurthwaite and Dr John John on “Principles of Prone Positioning in Spinal Surgery” and “Enhanced Recovery in Spinal Surgery” respectively, and both presentations were extremely well received. Delegates were then divided into three groups to examine and discuss the features of a variety of patient supports with Glyn, John and Paul. This gave the delegates the opportunity to share their experiences and seek advice on problems they were having.

After lunch the delegates were able to take a more hands-on role in handling the supports and positioning volunteers. It hadn’t been possible for us to supply models on this occasion, but despite this many of the delegates, especially those with the roles of ODP, felt they benefitted greatly from this session.

The day ended with a presentation from John Tedder explaining the process of developing new equipment and introducing the concept of the new Absolute Prone Helmet. Delegates were invited to approach Paul if they have ideas for future development and one anaesthetist wrote on his feedback form that “Having a designer there was a masterstroke!”

Other comments from feedback forms

include:

“A good opportunity to learn from others’ experiences and to try hands on using the equipment”

“Both the lectures at the start were exactly what I was looking for”

“...I have now gained a lot of knowledge that I can bring back to my workplace”

“This was an excellent day, very informative, well structured, good presenters”

We already have a list of anaesthetists and theatre staff who are interested in attending a Master Class in the south of England, so watch this space...



(Dr Glyn Smurthwaite demonstrating products)



(Alison & Chris after the evening meal)



(Dr John John demonstrating products)



(Jimmy & Paul after the evening meal)

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(Olivier Paul & Gwyn)

Le Chocolat



Paul being presented with his prizes by Olivier & Gwyn, after winning the French Chocolate Tasting Competition which included varieties of delicious milk and dark chocolates with various additions of Ginger, Peppers, Almonds, Cassis (Blackberries), Lavender and Thyme. A whole range of interesting and delicate flavours. Well done Paul... Next time, I think you should definitely bring some back to the office!



BODY MODELLING

We have decided to venture into the world of body parts Modelling. It has become clear to us that although the data available on the dimensions of populations by continental regions is good, it could be improved upon when developing new positioning support products, so as to achieve better conformity of skin to skin. We will be creating a range of facial models from which we will digitise the profiles to seek better facial supports for our new prone helmet and mirror. The new Glyn Thoracic & Lumber chest support's top surface will be remodelled in the same way. This new department will hopefully not be reminiscent of the "Carry on Film" which could have been "Carry on screaming" or was it "Jack"? I am not sure but someone will know!



We are working with our partners to develop a super skin to enable many of our products to become reusable, particularly the bulky larger patient supports which create storage problems for our hospitals.

The first one to be super skinned was our leg supports, presented at our Master Class in Patient Positioning held this September close to Manchester Airport. Behind the scenes, this took 7 attempts to produce the first super skinned product with existing tooling. The engineer's conclusion is that new aluminium tooling is required to enable much higher success rates in production. This will require a substantial investment program in new tooling the new Glyn Thoracic & Lumber Chest Support has been chosen for the Super Skinned range.

This New chest support is a first because it innovatively provides gentle accommodating support for women in the upper chest area of the body and will prevent bruising of the breasts. A problem that remains common is, when proning females during spinal surgery.

Scoliosis Success

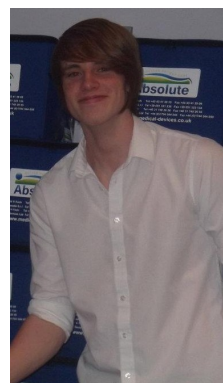
Paul Bennetts October 2011

Our new scoliosis kit (chest legs & arms kit) has been developed with spinal Surgeon Mr. Pat Kiely at Blackrock Clinic Dublin is now being used routinely.



At Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Dublin, Mr. David Moore Consultant Surgeon, said it had improved patient outcomes with no marking on the children post op, unlike it had been previously even with their new OSI Jackson Table (cost €120k).

Bernie McKeowan from theatres, who supports David and Mark Thornley from Clinical Engineering, said everyone was very impressed with the improvements to their patients. Their current list size stands at 300. Mary Egan the Theatre Manager at Blackrock Clinic, was very impressed with the remarkable speed in positioning the patient.



Chris Dearnley-Davison October 2011

Right...the last time I wrote a story I think my hair was red, see I did it, I had no Idea how to start this story but I have got over that barrier and technically if I keep rambling on this piece of writing will turn into an A* story!

Continued on to next page...

The problem I seem to have is that there are so many stories rattling around in my head, I should have done what Paul did in MJ's where he would keep a note book full of his adventures with parrots and the boy who had left written on his right shoe! But I don't want to write about Paul's stories, I am sure he will share them with you all.

So let me tell you about the time I went to a company called Urofoam. It was 5:30am when I heard Chris Moyles shouting at me to wake up, I suddenly realised that I had to get out of my warm, cosy bed and get ready for my adventure up north. 6am approached and I received a text from Paul saying he was outside, I thought to myself 'why is he always 10 minutes early in the morning but late in the evening?' I put on my shoes and jacket and stumbled outside. It was a cold wintery morning, I saw Janet's car and jumped in, Paul was focused on his iPhone (probably trying to get it to work or sending a text to Janet saying "Beat you to the car again!"). After driving for a few miles I noticed Paul did not have his Sat Nav set and wondered if he knew where we were going, I remember Paul's old black Vectra, he had lost his Sat Nav holder and stuck it to his dashboard with black tape! After trying to get the latest technology working we eventually got Paul's GPS Working on his iPhone.



When Paul and I go for early meetings we always go somewhere for breakfast, even if we have to make a detour to Ikea for a Mega breakfast! We stopped at our usual hotel which overlooks a beautiful lake (I have unfortunately forgotten the name but Jill knows). Paul and I walked in past the empty reception through to the breakfast room where we were greeted by a happy lady who told us that breakfast was ready and coming out, I was happy with this announcement since I could smell the bacon! Paul and I ventured to our usual spot at the back next to the window, overlooking the garden (and a weird half naked man...). Suddenly another waitress rushed in and explained that "Breakfast did not start till



7:30am" I thought to myself 'there is food on the buffet cart and we were already told that breakfast was still coming out' (in case I haven't mentioned it's an all you can eat breakfast!)- What did she expect Paul and I to say "oh sorry, we will wait outside"? We helped ourselves to the freshly cooked breakfast and Paul asked for his usual special order of poached eggs! When we had finished we started to walk out, I saw Paul give the nice waitress a tip, he did it in such a skilled, discrete way- how many sneaky tips does he give out? I wondered. I would shake their hand and realise I had the money in the wrong hand! We attempted to pay in the restaurant and were told that we had to pay at reception since their computer was off, so we went over to the reception desk where there was a cuddly looking lady typing away on her computer- 'great!' Paul and I thought, her computer is on! Unfortunately our relief quickly faded as she explained that she couldn't help us as she was too busy dealing with reports to sort out customers. After going back and forth to the restaurant, the lady at the reception let us pay there, after asking Paul how much we paid last time.

By the time we had finished eating breakfast and paid it was light outside and the view of the lake could really be appreciated. It was only a short drive to Urofoam from here.

We parked up in the car park (Paul only hit a few branches, "We won't tell Janet" he said) then met the MD Mike Stables. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about a new line of reusable products we were developing with them. What Urofoam do is make disposable foam have a cleanable shell, they have a good understanding about the importance of smooth tools, so that the final product does not show any markings or air holes in the final product.

We sat in Mike's office which he shares (I think) with his daughter and occasionally their pet dog. The very first time Paul and I went

over to Urofoam we were sat in his office and a big dog just walked in, Mike at this point said "who's dog is that?" and his daughter locked it outside. This time the dog came to visit and Mike felt comfortable enough for us to meet it (they must have adopted it, I thought) Mike told us the dog can only access the office and cannot get into the main factory, so my image of a dog called Bob making tools went straight out of the window! It seemed very quiet in the office and I could not see much activity, I asked Mike if we could see how to make a tool out of another tool, so he took us for a quick tour.

Mike opened the main door leaving the cold office behind, there were more people than Paul and I had initially thought. We walked passed a few ladies in the first room stitching away with the radio blaring, until we approached the room where some of the prototype tools were made. Mike told me that they poured liquid into the Aluminium tool to get a mould and then they let it set, once it is completely dry it would be an exact copy of the original tool. We discussed how we could make our disposable Angle pads into reusable pads that could be easily cleaned and would not slip of each other. We also asked whether they could make our Prone Lite completely wipe able and in one of their smooth harder foams (similar texture to plastic).

All in all Urofoam is a pleasant company to work with, it has a family atmosphere and the MD gets his hands dirty, reminds me a bit of our company. They work hard in finding different ways of making tools and predicting what the end product could look like. Furthermore, they show an interest in improving better patient care products and learning about exactly what the products are used for by attending our Master class and talking to lead Anaesthetist and Theatre staff in order to improve their own knowledge.

Paul and I left the meeting with the usual free samples of rugby balls and foam apples and started our long drive back down south.



The end.



Peter Bennetts October 2011

The *Fallsafe project* is a bundle of care which includes such things as assessing patients' risk of falls, checking whether night-time medication causes dizziness and nurses regularly visiting patients' bedsides. The project is currently being delivered by:

- (1) The Royal College of Physicians, Clinical effectiveness and evaluation unit
- (2) The National Patients safety Agency
- (3) South Central Strategic Health Authority
- (4) The Royal College of Nursing and
- (5) Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA)

The programme leader is Dr Adam Darowski, consultant geriatrician at the John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford. Peter Walsh, CEO of AvMa, and Sarah Mussett, head of Patient Safety Development at South Central Strategic Health Authority are also involved.

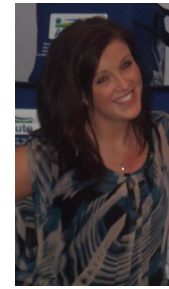
The project website is www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/closing-gap-fallsafe

The project will end March 2012 and it will cover 16 wards across the following hospitals:

Petersfield Hospital Hampshire, North Hampshire Hospital, Parklands Hospital Basingstoke, ST Mary's Hospital Isle of Wight, Prospect Park Hospital Reading, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford, Norton General Hospital Banbury, Fulbrook Centre Churchill Hospital Oxford, Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth, Royal Berkshire Hospital and St Mary's Hospital Portsmouth.

Of the hospital involved Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth is the only one also involved in another study known as the HIP HOP study. Look out for the HIP HOP story in the next issue...

The Newby



**Alison Renshaw
October 2011**

So it's almost been a year since I started working for the company. Is it just me or has this year flown by? It only feels like yesterday when I first started!

I've had some great experience: the photo shoot, the Master Class and even being involved in some of the meetings.

The photo shoot really helped by increasing my knowledge of the products. I have made about 1000 Wilson Frame kits and I never understood what they were for, but I got to see it all laid out and it made a lot more sense. It was also fun to dress up as surgeon and a nurse for the day!



The Master Class, well where do I start with this one? It was very hectic in the office before the master class; nevertheless I'd say it all went really well. It was really good to meet the people who are buying our products and to hear what they thought about them.



All in all I would say it has been a great year, I've met some really nice people and I hope next year is as good as this one.

COMPETITION!



Clues: this statue stands proudly at their entrance and the colours on Heskey's shirt should tell you.

Paul recently attended a two day conference on Revalidation for Doctors, with speakers from the GMC, NHS Revalidation Support Team and Colleges, which was held at a well known football club.

Question: In which club's players dressing room would you find *Heskey's shirt*?

Email your answer to Alison.Renshaw@medical-devices.co.uk to win a box of Thornton's Chocolates!!!!

